



September 2022

Dear Youth Workers and Educators,

**As the 2022-2023 school year begins, the New York Civil Liberties Union is once again seeking teens to join the Teen Activist Project (TAP), a youth leadership program focused on social justice, youth activism, and the law.** The NYCLU's youth program began as the Teen Health Initiative in 1997, founded with the mission of removing barriers that prevent young people from accessing critical health services and information. Today, TAP carries out the mission of the Teen Health Initiative and works on a wide range of NYCLU advocacy issues.

The TAP program will meet **fully** in-person this upcoming school year. TAP will meet at least once a week on Monday's from 4:15-6:15pm and brings together teens from all over the NYC area to discuss civil liberties issues, such as students' rights, confidential health care rights for minors, racial justice, immigrants' rights, LGBTQ rights, freedom of speech – and more. TAP members get hands-on training in peer education and community organizing. The program offers students the opportunity to learn about civil rights issues affecting their communities, develop youth-led advocacy campaigns, and work with professionals on civil liberties issues.

TAP members can receive up to \$600 in stipend money or community service hours. The program offers students the opportunity to meet with legislators in Albany and NYC, teach their peers important information about their rights, and sharpen their public speaking skills. TAP is ideal for youth interested in civil rights, social justice, and community organizing.

To qualify to participate, teens must be 14 to 21 years old and in a New York City high school or a GED program. We ask that in addition to weekly or bi-weekly meetings, TAP members be available to meet after school at least one other day of the week for various events and actions. Youth who join must remain in the program for the full length of the school year in order to receive a stipend.

***If you work with youth who may be interested in applying to be part of TAP, please pass on the enclosed flyer and direct them to apply online at [www.nyclu.org/tap](http://www.nyclu.org/tap).***

**Applications will be vetted as they arrive** (submitting an application early is encouraged!) **and are due online by Sunday, September 25<sup>th</sup> at 11:59pm.** Late applications will be disqualified. Meet and Greets will be held in early to mid-October after the application deadline to invite selected applicants to learn about the NYCLU, the TAP program and meet our current TAP members.

Thanks for your ongoing support of our youth programs, and we look forward to hearing from your students! If you have any questions or concerns, you can reach me at 212-607-3300 or [schools@nyclu.org](mailto:schools@nyclu.org).

Sincerely,

**Kenny Nguyen**  
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